AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims found below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a terminal unit in an exchange, ~~in which~~comprising:

performing signaling for a first subscriber ~~is carried out~~ during execution of a first application program by a processor included in the terminal unit, wherein

call processing between the first subscriber and a second subscriber is carried out during execution of a second application program, ~~wherein~~

transferring signaling data, generated during signaling, at a message interface ~~are transferred~~ to the second application program by using an operating system for controlling the flow of the application programs, ~~and wherein~~

transferring call data, generated during call processing, at the message interface ~~are transferred~~ to the first application program using the operating system, and

the exchange occurs between the application programs by means of a connection program.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a terminal unit in an exchange, ~~in which~~comprising:

performing signaling ~~is carried out~~ with ~~the~~ aid of a further exchange by a processor included in the terminal unit during execution of a first application program, ~~wherein~~

performing call processing between the two exchanges ~~is carried out~~ during execution of a second application program, ~~wherein~~

transferring signaling data, generated during signaling, at a message interface ~~are transferred~~ to the second application program by using an operating system for controlling the flow of the application programs, ~~and wherein~~

transferring call data, generated during call processing, at the message interface ~~are transferred~~ to the first application program using the operating system, and

the exchange occurs between the application programs by means of a connection program.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the generated signaling data or the call data include messages with a prescribed structure.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the messages include a receiver identifier, or an address reference on a data block with data to be transmitted, or a message identifier for distinguishing the different messages, or a message type identifier for identifying the type of message, or data on the application program generating the message.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the signaling data and the call data include a data block, and wherein, in addition to data to be transmitted, the data block includes further data with the aid of which the data block can be assigned to one or more application programs.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein two first application programs are used for signaling with the aid of different protocols, and wherein the first application programs exchange at least one of signaling data and call data with second application programs via a common or a plurality of message interfaces, and wherein the same command sequence is executed during processing of the second application programs.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein two second application programs with identical or different command sequences are used, wherein the first

application program exchanges at least one of signaling data and call data with the second application programs via a common or a plurality of message interfaces, and wherein the same command sequence is used in the case of second application programs with identical command sequences.

8. (previously presented) A terminal unit for an exchange, comprising:

at least one subscriber line for connecting a first subscriber;

at least one further connection for setting up a transmission channel to a second subscriber;

application programs for executing switching operations, to which signaling at the subscriber line and method steps for call processing belong, wherein signaling data generated during signaling is used when processing a call, or call data generated during call processing is used when signaling; and

an operating system controlling the flow of the application programs, wherein at least one of the signaling data and the call data are transferred to one message interface using the operating system.

9. (previously presented) The terminal unit for an exchange, comprising:

at least one connection for connecting a further exchange;

application programs for executing switching operations, to which signaling at the connection and method steps for call processing belong, wherein signaling data generated during signaling is used when processing a call, or call data generated during call processing is used when signaling; and

an operating system controlling the flow of the application programs, wherein at least one of the signaling data the call data are transferred to at least one message interface using the operating system.

10. (previously presented) The terminal unit as claimed in claim 8, wherein signaling is executed by a first application program, and wherein call processing is executed by a second application program.

11. (previously presented) An exchange, comprising a terminal unit having

at least one subscriber line for connecting a first subscriber;

at least one further connection for setting up a transmission channel to a second subscriber;

application programs for executing switching operations, to which signaling at the subscriber line and method steps for call processing belong, wherein signaling data generated during signaling is used when processing a call, or call data generated during call processing is used when signaling; and

an operating system controlling the flow of the application programs, wherein at least one of the signaling data and the call data are transferred to one message interface using the operating system.